



IMPACT OF COVID -19 ON LIVESTOCK SECTOR

Introduction

The outbreak of COVID-19 revealed significant impact in the livestock sector and the economy at large. Priority livestock value chains are beef, dairy, poultry, hides and skin. Beef and milk are decentralized sub-sectors, hence less exposed to the disruptions in the global supply chains. Currently, the poultry meat production-consumption gap is estimated at 130,000 MT. The demand for poultry is expected to grow and it will be the cheapest animal protein in the future. Tanzania produces about 493,000 metric tons of red meat. Beef is the dominant component of the red meat consumed in Tanzania (82%). Most of this produced meat (97%) comes from pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. The overall milk production from different livestock production zones (central, coastal and lake and specialized dairy) was estimated at 3 million liters in 2019.

Findings

The most affected sector during the pandemic was the poultry subsector due to shutting downs of hotels as a result of absence of tourist, absence of street foods. Moreover, the sub-sector inputs highly depend on imports from China, India and Europe hence lockdowns posed in these countries led to great disruptions of the supply chains for products such as chicken fertilized eggs, parent

stock, feeds and supplements, vet drugs, acaricides and vaccines.

The rapid analysis on livestock sector due to COVID19 revealed the following;

- Decrease of parent stock due to contracting Day-Old-Chicks (DOCs) business
- Falling down of chicks and broiler starter crumble prices by more than (30%) and (40%) respectively
- A fall of 31% in poultry production leading to decline in output of about 100,000 metric tons in 2020.
- Deficit of chicken fertilized eggs, parent stock, feeds and supplements, vet drugs, acaricides and vaccines.

Beef subsector experienced minimal effects since 97% of meat consumed is produced locally. However, these brutal realities from the pandemic have taught difficult lessons in terms of overall reliance and sustainability of the livestock sector, especially the SHPs.

Policy Recommendation.

- a. Poultry production was estimated to grow by (2%) but during covid-19 it has fallen by (31%) there is a need for supply chain to be resolved whereas the government should make sure there is enough supplies for the poultry market which may reduce shortage of inputs to the poultry producers.
- b. Also, there should be more reinvestment in beef industry to strengthen local processors.